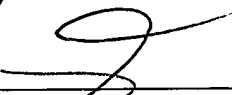
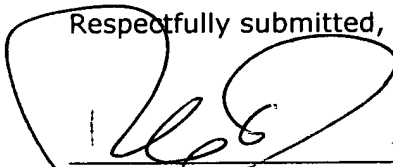


Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1-30 were pending in this application. The Final Office Action rejects claims 1-13 and 21-27 based on U.S. Patent No. 5,609,627 to Goicoechea, et al. (Goicoechea) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,817,101 to Fiedler (Fiedler). The applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 14-20 and 28-30 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims.

Although the applicants disagree that there is any motivation to combine the cited references, to facilitate prosecution, independent claims 1, 13, and 21 have been amended to include limitations that distinguish the structure of and resulting method for using the applicant's reverse-deployment introducer from the structure of and resulting method for using the introducer disclosed by Fiedler. Claim 14 has been canceled, and selected dependent claims have been amended to eliminate redundancies with respect to the base claims. The applicant respectfully submits that for the same reasons that claims 14-20 and 28-30 were previously indicated as being allowable, claims 1-13 and 15-30, as amended, are now in condition for allowance. Early and favorable notification to this effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Rex A. Donnelly, IV, Reg. No. 41,712
Phillip E. Gonzalez, Reg. No. 55,213
Attorneys for Applicants

RAD/PEG

Dated: March 2, 2005

☒ P.O. Box 980
Valley Forge, PA 19482
(610) 407-0700

The Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge payment to Deposit Account No. **18-0350** of any fees associated with this communication.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on:

3/2/05 Melissa Clemens